

(From the London Once a Week.)

CIVILIS BELLUM.

(In this fearful struggle between North and South there are hundreds of cases in which fathers are arrayed against sons and brothers against brothers—American paper.)

••••• Rittenman, shoot me a fancy shot.

Straight at the heart of you provoking videte;

Ring me a ball in the glittering splendor;

That shines on his hand in the sunburst.

••••• Ah, Captain, here goes for a fine-drawn head;

The ball is on the way when my rifle's in tune.

Crack went the rifle, the messenger sped;

And down from his horse fell the ringing dragoon.

••••• Now, rittenman, steal through the bushes and

From your victim some trinket to handclasp first blood;

A button, a loop, or that luminous patch.

The glass in the moon like a diamond stand.

••••• Oh, Captain! I staggered and sank on the track;

When I gazed on the face of the fallen videte;

He looked so like you, as he lay on his back;

That my heart rose upon me and mastered me yet.

••••• But I snatched off the trinket—this lock of hair;

From the center of the head—break it, way;

Scarce grazing the picture, so fair to behold,

Of a beautiful lady in bridal array.

••••• Ha! rittenman, sing me the locket! The she—

My brother's young man, the fallen—died.

Was her husband! Ha! ha! soldier, this is Heaven's decree!

Was her baby him there by the light of the moon.

••••• But bark! the far bangles their warning note;

War is a virtue—weakness a sin;

There's a lurking and leaping around us to-night;

Load again, rittenman—keep your hand in!

A Tragedy of the Des Moines.

••••• Twas the spring of '68, during a brief

sojourn in the Hawaian State, that the following incident came within the writer's observation.

The reader will recollect this was the "long rainy season," when carriage traveling at best was slow and toilsome, but here, among our trackless, undulating prairies, where streams rise to an unaccountable height in a half hour, it was not only dangerous, but oftentimes impracticable.

One might go out in the morning for a dozen miles ride—soughs whose depth would scarcely exceed a few inches, and by the evening return to find the same streams so swollen and turbulent as to utterly prohibit all further progress.

••••• Twas during one of these sudden freshets, while detained for a day at a low, miserable hut, that the terrible tragedy we are about to relate occurred. Our route not being in the vicinity of a railroad, we were necessitated to the only alternative of traveling by private conveyance. Owing to the misery state of the roads, and the constant rise of the sloughs, a journey of two hundred miles, which should have been completed in one week, was protracted to three. We had set out in the bright, hearts and glowing sunlight and smooth roads gave promise of a delightful journey. It was refreshing indeed to leave the close, dusty streets of the city, for the green, flowery carpet of the prairies; but the heavy rains coming on, the black soil giving at every step abundant evidence of its adhesive faculty, the broad prairies now dreary and monotonous, rendered our journey dull and wearisome in the extreme.

And seeking entertainment at the little cabin scattered at long intervals along our route, and that a questionable kind, was by no means the least disagreeable portion of the journey. The prairie was mostly of the lower classes of Carolinians living in frail, shabby tenements, though with the redeeming quality of being able bravely to withstand the wild, sweeping winds, and so constructed as to admit of thorough ventilation; there were no pretensions to cleanliness—their chief subsistence, meat, coffee and tobacco.

It was in one of these shabby, dilapidated huts, and among such a people, that we were domesticated on the night of that terrible tragedy, which even now to recall, causes the blood to chill in our veins.

About mid-afternoon, a heavy, driving rain had set in, suspending all work for a few days, the bright, warm sunlight and smooth roads

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